

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST STUDENT MOVEMENT (SDASM)

PREAMBLE

This constitution serves as an umbrella constitution of SDASM, however it allows different local SDASM structures to adapt it to suit the requirements of the institution they function in. Any adaptation shall not be contrary to this constitution. Amendments to and adoption of the constitution can only be done at a duly called meeting as reflected in Article VII of the By-Laws.

MISSION

It is the mission of SDASM to facilitate the proclamation of the everlasting gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as embodied in the Three Angels Message of Revelation 14:6-12 to all students.

VISION

To equip SDASM members and facilitate ministries that are efficient and purpose-driven towards the realisation of SDASM mission.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be Seventh-day Adventist Student Movement (SDASM) of/at (Name of the institution) or(Name of the institution) SDASM

ARTICLE II

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Sabbath

This is the seventh day of the week (from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset), in which God rested. God blessed the Sabbath and set it apart for rest and worship for humanity according to Gen 2:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11; amongst others.

2. Nominating Committee

This is the Committee which is mandated by SDASM members to nominate officers who will serve in the executive committee of SDASM.

3. Active Member

This is an individual who attends meetings and church services regularly and adheres to the beliefs and values of the Seventh day Adventist Church and also subscribes to the values of SDASM.

4. SAU

This acronym stands for SOUTHERN AFRICA UNION. This is the 3rd level Organization (Head Quarters) of the Seventh day Adventist church in the Southern Africa territory and comprises of Conferences.

5. Chaplain

A chaplain serves to take care of the spiritual needs of members of SDASM. It can be a full/part time staff member of the institution or any qualified person appointed by the church to which the structure is affiliated. This person keeps the church informed of the needs of students and campus developments.

6. Regular Standing

This refers to a Baptised Seventh-day Adventist person who adheres to and upholds all the commandments of God and the principles and values of the Seventh day Adventist church.

7. Campus Ministries Director

This is an individual from the SAU or Conference whose main designation is to advise, support and facilitate nurture to all members and adherents of SDASM.

8. Conference

This is a second level Organization of the Seventh day Adventist church.

ARTICLE III **RELATIONSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

The SDASM structure shall be affiliated to:

1. Local Institutions' SRC
2. Local Seventh-day Adventist Church
3. Local Students Regional Council and Youth Federation (where possible)
4. Local Conference Campus Ministries Department
5. SAU Campus Ministries Department

ARTICLE IV **OBJECTIVES**

Section I

The objectives of SDASM are:

1. To strengthen the faith commitment of the students to the Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and values.

2. To provide opportunities for Christian fellowship among students, who hold membership in the organization.
3. To prepare students to deal with the challenges which arise in a secular environment.
4. To develop student leadership abilities.
5. To train students for outreach and witnessing on the campus, in the community, and in the world at large.
6. To keep students informed of recent trends and concerns of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.
7. To create an environment of interaction between Seventh-day Adventist students, and staff on campus.
8. To equip our students with biblical principles that will help them to face the challenges of the business world, the post-academic life and to be service to the church.

ARTICLE V **MEMBERSHIP**

Section I

Membership will be open to all registered students of the particular institutions including staff members and alumni as honorary members.

Section II

Membership will be open to non Seventh-day Adventist students who express like interest in the Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and values, and subscribes to the objectives of the organization.

Section III

There shall be no discrimination in membership privileges based on creed, race or gender in this organization.

ARTICLE VI **OFFICERS**

Section I

The officers of this organization shall consist of at least, the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary, Public Relations Officers, and treasurer.

Section II

The executive committee will consist of at least the five officers, chaplain (ex-officio), and the Campus Ministries Director (ex officio).

ARTICLE VII
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TERM OF OFFICE

Section I

Election of officers shall occur during the third quarter of each academic year and the term of office will last until the following election.

Section II

A nominating committee shall be appointed to suggest, study names and present these to the members for voting.

The nominating committee can be chosen by direct nomination from the floor or through a large committee.

In the election of officers, ballots shall be secret.

The Campus Ministries Director or his designee shall preside in the election of new officers. Elections will be with active members present and election will be by a simple majority of the members present.

Written confirmation of one's membership to the SDA church should be sought before one can be nominated for an office.

ARTICLE VIII
WORSHIP SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Section I

The SDASM shall meet for worship every Friday evening, Sabbath and on any other day as determined by the membership.

Section II

The local executive committee will meet at least once a month and whenever there is a need as deemed by the chairperson and chaplain.

Section III

The General Meeting shall be held at least once a quarter to discuss matters pertaining to SDASM.

ARTICLE IX
CHURCH POLICIES

Where this Constitution is silent, the current edition of the *Seventh-Day Adventist Church Manual* and policies of the Church shall apply.

BY -LAWS

ARTICLE I **OFFICERS**

Section I

In order for a member to be nominated for an office in the SDASM structure, he/she must be a baptized Seventh-day Adventist in regular standing and be an active member in the campus structure.

Section II

Elections will be conducted with active members present and will be by a simple majority vote of the members present.

Written confirmation of one's membership to the SDA church should be sought before one can be nominated for an office.

Section III

Any officer other than the chairperson may resign when such resignation is submitted in writing to the chairperson who will present it to the Executive Committee. The chairperson may resign when such resignation is submitted in writing to the Deputy Chairperson.

Section IV

When a vacancy occurs, a replacement shall be recommended by the executive committee and appointed by a simple majority of the active members present in a duly called meeting.

ARTICLE II **DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section I

The Chairperson

Shall convene and chair the executive committee and the general meeting.

Shall liaise with the SRC of the local institution.

Shall lead in worship and fellowship gatherings.

The Deputy Chairperson

The Deputy Chairperson works hand in hand with the Chairperson and shall execute responsibilities along with the Chairperson.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson assumes the full responsibilities of the Chairperson.

The Secretary

Shall keep the minutes of both the executive and the general meetings.

Shall keep record of every member of the organization

Shall handle all the necessary correspondence and be a custodian of the records of SDAM.

The Treasurer

Shall keep a meticulous record of all finances of the organization.

Shall disburse tithes and offerings to the local SDA Church or Conference (where possible) in line with the combined offering plan.

Shall be a signatory to the local SDASM accounts.

The Public Relations Officer

Shall promote the activities of the organization on campus and off campus.

Shall function also as communication officer of the organization.

The Chaplain

Shall liaise with the local SDA Church and the organization.

Shall liaise with the institution's administration when necessary.

Shall carry out all responsibilities of a chaplain as outlined in the Addendum.

ARTICLE III **IMPEACHMENT**

Any officer who does not perform his duties as outlined by the constitution may be impeached by 2/3 majority vote of the members. Such impeachment shall be carried out after the organization has been convinced that the said officer has not satisfactorily performed his/her duties as outlined in Article II.

ARTICLE IV **FINANCES**

Section I

Finances will be raised through a grant or budget from the local SRC and voluntary contributions.

Section II

All revenue shall be dispensed as prescribed by the executive committee and membership.

Section III

All tithes and offerings shall be processed and audited according to the Seventh-day Adventist Church principles and practices.

ARTICLE V **SUBCOMMITTEES**

Subcommittees shall be appointed by the executive committee as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE VI **QUORUM**

Section I

A quorum shall be mandatory for the constitution adaptations and the election of officers.

Section II

A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of the active membership.

Section III

The executive committee quorum shall be fifty percent plus one member of the executive committee

ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENTS

This constitution and its by-laws may be amended by 2/3 majority of the membership. Amendments of this constitution can only be done at a duly called SDASM Council or Student Convention convened by SAU, taking into consideration the number of the institutions present at the conference. Anything contrary to the provisions of this constitution is null and void.

ADDENDUM TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. Relationship between the SDASM structure and the local church:

- The Southern Africa Union Conference Chaplaincy/Campus Ministries department; recognizes and respects the organization and several layers of Administration of the Seventh day Adventist church as stipulated in the Church Manual.
- We therefore wish to encourage all SDASM structures to adhere to the policy of the church by respecting the several layers of administration in the Adventist church.
- The local church is the first layer of administration, as such all officers of the church including the local Pastor must be given their due respect and recognition by our students.
- We recognize that without the Pastor and the Local church, our work will be a daunting task.
- Service requests for guest speakers when running special or regular meetings should be channeled through the local church. No speaker should be invited without the endorsement of the local Pastor/Conference director/SAU director. This is necessary to avoid using speakers that are not recognized and recommended by the church due to valid reasons.
- We recognize that our understanding of God's truth as revealed to *the church* is progressive, but wish to warn our students against following the proponents of the NEW LIGHT theology. All theological interpretations of the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy should be done under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Church Doctrines (28 Fundamental Beliefs), the local church and the church Pastor.
- The SDASM structure in consultation with the SAU/Conference Campus Ministries Director will approach any local church that will be able to foster the spiritual growth of the students.
- The membership of all the students who are baptized while holding membership to the campus structure will be held at this local church.
- The local church will be responsible for the following among others:
 - a. Conduct the Holy Communion for the students
 - b. Be responsible for conducting baptism when the need arises.
 - c. Be involved through the chaplain or church representative, in maintaining discipline in the campus structure.
 - d. Provide a mutually beneficial relationship between the campus and the church.
 - e. In consultation with the Pastor/church elder or chaplain/conference director or SAU director; students will be assisted when they face Sabbath or faith related challenges.
- The local structure should participate in the activities of the Youth department e.g. Master Guide etc.

2. Regional Structure

- Regional structures will be formed in an area where two or more institutions are in close proximity.
- Representatives (not less than two and not more than five) from member campus structures will constitute a nominating committee where the Regional officers will be appointed.
- The Conference Campus Ministries Director or anyone designated by him/her will

convene the meeting where the Regional Officers will be appointed.

- The procedure and qualifications required for election in the campus structure shall also apply in the regional structure.
- The officers shall consist of at least a president, vice-president, Public Relations Officer, secretary and Treasurer.
- The main function of the Regional Structure will be that of coordinating the activities amongst the various member structures on a regional level.
- The Regional Structure does not have the right to run the programs and activities of the local campus structures.
- The Regional structure Chaplain/Chairperson may be part of the Youth Federation under the Campus Ministries wing.

